Imposition of Powers cess

279. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to impose a power cess of five paise for every unit generated in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to rationalise power tariff for farm sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve power situation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) In order to accelerate the pace of hydro power development, it is proposed to levy a 'cess at 5 paise per KWH on electricity generation. The proceeds of the cess will be shared between the Central and State Governments. An enabling legislation is required for levy of a cess on electricity generation.

(c) and (d) Under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 State Governments/ State Electricity Boards can fix the electricity tariff for retail consumers including the farm sector.

(e) The steps taken to improve the power situation in the country include maximisation of generation in existing power plants by renovation and modernisation; reduction in transmission and distribution losses; coordinated operation of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas turbine power stations; promotion of inter-state/inter-regional power transfers; demand side mangement and conservation of energy.

Employment generation schemes for Maharashtra

280. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the schemes of employment generation taken up in Maharashtra from time to time, during the last three years, year-wise, district-wise and Panchayat-wise;

(b) the number of families benefited from the above schemes, district-wise, year-wise and Panchayat-wise; and

(c) how much funds were distributed to each Panchayat, how much areas utilised and how much remained untilised and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) to (c) The major employment generation schemes implemented in the districts of Maharashtra in the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Million Wells Scheme (MWS), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA and Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM). Union Government monitors the implementation of these programmes at State and district levels only. The number of families/individuals benefitted during the last three years, district-wise, is given in the Statement.